

## Kuwait has highest reserves in Gulf

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait for the first time has overtaken Saudi Arabia as the Gulf Arab state with the highest state reserves, a bank study released on Monday said. The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) said the six member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) held reserves totalling \$204.7 billion at the end of 1986. The reserves surged with oil revenue in the 1970s but have been relatively drawn down in recent years to finance state budget deficits that emerged when oil revenues fell. NBK said Kuwait's reserves stood at \$35 billion at the end of last year followed by Saudi Arabia (\$30 billion), the United Arab Emirates (\$22 billion), Qatar (\$12 billion), Oman (\$3.1 billion) and Bahrain (\$1.6 billion). Most of the GCC reserves are in the United States and Western Europe. The study estimated Kuwait's reserves, after deducting amounts used to finance the budget deficit, at \$89.7 billion at the end of last June. It projected they would reach \$91 billion by the end of the fiscal year ending June 1988. NBK predicted there would be no or slightly negative economic growth this year in the GCC despite an upturn in oil revenues, the main source of income. It estimated GCC oil revenues would reach \$37 billion from \$35 billion last year because of higher world oil prices.

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### Regent visits army units

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, visited units of the Third Armoured Division of the Armed Forces during exercises they conducted on Monday. The Regent met with the commander of the division and senior officers as well as soldiers of the unit. The division commander briefed the Regent on the various phases of the exercises and the level of progress of training.

Kuranari due here on Sept. 20

AMMAN (R) — Japan's Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari will discuss the Iran-Iraq war and the Arab-Israeli conflict when he visits Jordan on Sept. 20, an embassy source said on Monday. He said Mr. Kuranari would stop in Baghdad and Amman on his way to New York for the U.N. General Assembly before going on to several Latin American countries. Mr. Kuranari hoped to meet Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, but might not see Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri due in Tunis the same day to attend an Arab League meeting to discuss Iran's response to U.N. efforts to end the Gulf war.

Jordan and Iraq to sign Islamic accord

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat left Amman for Baghdad on Monday on a several-day official visit to Iraq. During his visit, Dr. Khayyat is expected to sign with his Iraqi counterpart Abdulah Fadel Abbas an agreement on Islamic preaching and regulations ruling Waqf management. The agreement will also deal with exchanging information and research on Islamic heritage.

Jordan to host Mediterranean talks on medical education

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will host a regional conference on medical education before the end of 1987 with the participation of 23 Mediterranean countries. Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh, following a meeting on Monday of preparatory and executive committees of the conference, said that he agreed on holding the conference in Jordan during his tenure as chairman of last year's meetings of the World Health Organisation (WHO) General Assembly upon a request from the chairman of the International Union for Health Education.

Klibi welcomes Iraq-Libya move

TUNIS (AP) — The Arab League on Monday welcomed with "great satisfaction" the move towards improving relations between Iraq and Libya, which has supported Iran in the seven-year Gulf war. Secretary-General Chadli Klibi said in a statement that the Arab League welcomed the "determination" of the two countries to "develop their relations in all domains, in a framework of mutual respect, on the basis of Arab solidarity and founded on the League's Charter." Iraq and Libya issued a statement last week saying they intend to improve relations.

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## Iraq urges U.N. to adopt punitive action against Iran

Aziz reaffirms Baghdad's acceptance of 598 and calls on Perez de Cuellar to enforce it

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq urged U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Monday to take punitive measures against Iran because it has failed to respond to a July 20 Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire in the seven-year-old Gulf war.

Both sides accused each other of starting new fighting to wreck Mr. Perez de Cuellar's crucial peace mission. But there was no independent confirmation of any significant action.

The Iraqi demand for sanctions against Iran was made by Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz when he met Mr. Perez de Cuellar at the Foreign Ministry.

It was the U.N. chief's first session with Iraqi leaders since he flew in from Tehran Sunday night after two days of talks.

He was scheduled to meet President Saddam Hussein later Monday and return to New York Tuesday.

Mr. Aziz asked Mr. Perez de Cuellar to seek sanctions against Iran "for its refusal to yield to the international community's will in calling for a ceasefire in the seven-year-old conflict."

### Shipping traffic surges during lull in 'tanker war'

BAHRAIN (R) — Shipping surged through the narrow mouth of the Gulf on Monday, taking advantage of a lull in air and sea attacks brought on by a U.N. peace mission to Iran and Iraq.

Shipping sources said the number of vessels entering and leaving the waterway had risen steadily since U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in the region on Friday.

"There's been a real rush of activity today," said one source. "Shippers seem to be taking advantage of the lull in attacks."

An incoming group of four tankers escorted by three U.S. warships was sighted on Monday off the United Arab Emirates (UAE) of Ras Al Khaimah, just a few hours after an outgoing convoy was seen further up the Gulf.

Reporters who flew overhead said the 401,382-tonne Kuwaiti supertanker Bridgeton, which hit a mine on its maiden voyage into the Gulf two months ago, was leading the inbound convoy.

It also included the American guided missile destroyer Kidd, the 46,723-tonne Kuwaiti tanker Gas Prince and two tankers on the Liberian-flag supertanker Grand (421,681 tonnes) and another unidentified tanker.

Two Iranian warships tracked the convoy two miles away, the sources said.

### Belgium announces decision to send anti-mine force to Gulf

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — Belgium will dispatch minesweepers to the Gulf to help the United States and other Western nations patrol the waterway, Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said Monday.

Mr. Martens made the announcement at the end of a special meeting of his cabinet. He said he was arranging a news conference to provide details of the decision.

Mr. Martens said Belgium would send two minesweepers and one support vessel to help ensure free navigation. He said they would work in close cooperation with other European allies.

Mr. Martens told journalists that the force would closely cooperate with the British fleet in the area which would protect the Belgian vessels.

He said the Belgian ships would begin the five-week voyage within the next eight days. Their orders were for a 4½ month mission, but this could be cut short if necessary, he added.

Machine-gun and rocket raid, but the vessel's bridge and funnel were badly damaged. The attack was the last in a ten-day wave of strikes on shipping by both Iran and Iraq, in which 13 ships were hit and two seamen died.

Shipping sources said tankers are now tagging onto the end of naval-escorted convoys for protection. They also preferred to sail in groups. "Normally ships will go singly, not in pairs," said one.

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"Presumably the Iranians will be more aggressive," said one source. "Shipowners seem to be taking advantage of the lull in attacks."

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The last confirmed attack on shipping was on Thursday, when Iranian gunboats ambushed the Cypriot supertanker Haven as it sailed fully loaded in the southern Gulf.

Non one was injured in the

Syrian efforts to free British hostages said to depend on 'diplomatic action from London'

By Lamis K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Syria has indicated that it is capable of helping secure freedom for British nationals kidnapped in Lebanon and that it will exert efforts to free the hostages if there was willingness on the part of London to improve its ties with Damascus, according to a Church of England envoy who visited the Syrian capital over the weekend.

Iran said 17 people were killed or wounded in Iraqi attacks on Abadan, Khorramshahr and Sar

(Continued on page 3)

Jordanian writers urge U.N. chief to ensure end to war

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Writers Association on Monday called on United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to intensify efforts to ensure an end to the seven-year-Iraq-Iran war. In a cable to Mr. Perez de Cuellar, the association called on the U.N. chief to stand firmly in the face of "those tampering with freedom and peace" and "to rid the Iranian people and the Arab Nation and the whole world of the bloodbaths and the acts of terror and destruction committed by the Iranian regime."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar concurred a peace mission to Iran and Iraq.

"The timing is good because the Gulf is top of the agenda right now but it is bad because by the time the Iraqis leave we won't know just how the secretary general's mission has gone," a British official told Reuters.

Britain has sent minesweepers to the Gulf to support its warships escorting British and reflagged Kuwaiti tankers halfway up the waterway as far as Bahrain.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar, who is trying to persuade Tehran and Baghdad to accept a Security Council resolution for a ceasefire in the war, said on Sunday he was neither optimistic nor pessimistic about his mission.

The British press was gloomy about its prospects, saying the U.N. chief had clearly failed to persuade Iran to accept a truce.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar arrived in Baghdad on the second leg of his mission on Sunday just as Iraq announced it had repelled a fresh Iranian offensive on the central front.

Mr. Martens made the announcement at the end of a special meeting of his cabinet. He said he was arranging a news conference to provide details of the decision.

Mr. Martens said Belgium would send two minesweepers and one support vessel to help ensure free navigation. He said they would work in close cooperation with other European allies.

Mr. Martens told journalists that the force would closely cooperate with the British fleet in the area which would protect the Belgian vessels.

He said the Belgian ships would begin the five-week voyage within the next eight days. Their orders were for a 4½ month mission, but this could be cut short if necessary, he added.

The fleet and its combined crew of about 250 could be ready to leave by the end of the week, they said. It would take about five weeks for them to reach the Gulf, the sources said.

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## EC assails Israel for building settlements in occupied lands

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — European Community (EC) foreign ministers on Monday criticised Israel for resuming its policy of establishing settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

"They (the ministers) consider that every new and every existing settlement is in violation of international law and call upon the Israeli government to put an end to the illegal policy of settlements in the occupied territories," the statement read.

Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Elleman-Jensen told a news conference the EC's first-ever declaration on Israel's settlement drive was prompted by the recent inauguration of a new site on the West Bank.

He said the cornerstone of the new settlement had been laid by

the envoy, Canon Paul Oestreicher, told the Jordan Times on Monday that Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas told him in talks in Damascus that Syria's good relations with Iran would help Syria to help the British hostages, including Anglican church envoy and hostage negotiator Terry Waite, who are believed to be held by pro-Syrian groups in Lebanon.

However, Canon Oestreicher, who made a brief stop-over in Amman on Monday, quoted Lieutenant-General Tlas as saying, helping the release of Mr. Waite and other British hostages was not a "priority" for Syria "yet."

"The Syrians stressed that helping in freeing the West German hostage (Rudolph Cordes) was their immediate priority," he said.

The West German government has already expressed its support for Damascus and Tehran for brokering the release of Alfred Schmidt, who was reportedly held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. Mr. Cordes was expected to be freed later this week, according to reports from Damascus and Beirut.

Canon Oestreicher said during his talks in Damascus the Syrians explained to him that they felt that "the West German government and public opinion were more willing (than the British) to act on behalf of the hostages."

Well-informed sources told the Jordan Times that Bavarian state Prime Minister Joseph Strauss, who has always maintained good relations with Damascus and Beirut, has reportedly held talks with pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. Mr. Cordes was expected to be freed later this week, according to reports from Damascus and Beirut.

Canon Oestreicher, who is director of the Church of England's international ministry, said he had concluded from his talks with Gen. Tlas that Syria is ready to help the release of Mr. Waite and other British hostages.

Reporters who flew overhead said the 401,382-tonne Kuwaiti supertanker Bridgeton, which hit a mine on its maiden voyage into the Gulf two months ago, was leading the inbound convoy.

It also included the American guided missile destroyer Kidd, the 46,723-tonne Kuwaiti tanker Gas Prince and two tankers on the Liberian-flag supertanker Grand (421,681 tonnes) and another unidentified tanker.

Two Iranian warships tracked the convoy two miles away, the sources said.

Non one was injured in the

Belgium announces decision to send anti-mine force to Gulf

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Hassan Sabra, the Lebanese journalist who first disclosed the secret U.S. arms sales to Iran, was shot and wounded by a motorcycle gunman here Monday and doctors said he may have been blinded by the gunfire.

Mr. Sabra, 38, publisher-editor of the Beirut weekly magazine Al-Shiraa, suffered four bullet wounds in the head, neck and chest from the mid-morning assassination attempt.

"He is in stable condition but might lose his eyesight from the head wound," said one doctor at the American University Hospital as Mr. Sabra emerged from three hours of surgery to remove the bullet.

Mr. Sabra made many enemies through his reporting in Al-Shiraa on Iranian politics and the foreign

hostages he was held in Lebanon.

He was heading to the magazine's office in west Beirut's Moscbeh district in his chauffeur.

Mr. Sabra's driver, who dou-

## Khaddam and Raimond leave Jeddah

JEDDAH (Agencies) — France's foreign minister and Syria's vice president both left Saudi Arabia on Monday after meetings with King Fahd, but without seeing each other. Diplomats had thought the two might meet to discuss the hostage crisis in Lebanon, where seven French nationals are still missing, believed kidnapped. The French Foreign Ministry in Paris said Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond did not meet Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, despite their coinciding visits to Jeddah. Mr. Raimond, who arrived on Sunday, delivered messages to King Fahd from President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. Mr. Khaddam arrived on Saturday as foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. — discussed the Iran-Iraq war. The Saudi Press Agency said King Fahd and Mr. Khaddam discussed the Iran-Iraq war and called for an end to the seven-year-old conflict. Mr. Raimond's trip, which began Saturday night, was only made public by a Saudi Press Agency report on Sunday. The French Foreign Ministry at first declined any comment on the visit.

David Levy.

Mr. Elleman-Jensen, who chaired the EC meeting, said the community has been considering an open condemnation of Israel's settlement policy for some time.

No Moroccan entry to EC

# GCC to press for Egypt's return to Arab League

MUSCAT (R) — Oman's government-owned press said on Monday Gulf Arab foreign ministers would press for the return of Egypt to the Arab League at its next summit.

The newspapers said the ministers agreed their countries would resume diplomatic ties with Cairo if it was not permitted to return to full membership of the League.

They met in Jeddah on Saturday and Sunday at a conference of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Egypt was suspended from the League following the Camp David accords leading to its 1979 peace treaty with Israel. Most Arab States broke diplomatic links with Cairo as well.

Five GCC states — Saudi Ara-

bia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates — cut diplomatic ties with Egypt but Oman has maintained its links with Cairo.

The newspaper reports said the GCC favoured the return of Egypt to the League in recognition of the role taken by Cairo in "serving Arab interests."

Egypt is a strong supporter of Iraq in the Gulf war and the GCC states also generally support Baghdad.

The reports said if Cairo's re-entry to the League was on developments in the Gulf region.

## Death penalty asked in Tunisian bomb trial

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — State prosecutor Mohammad Zayani on Monday asked for the death penalty against 90 Muslim fundamentalists accused of plotting to overthrow the Tunisian government.

The defendants are charged with procuring arms, carrying out attacks on public forces, inciting to murder and inciting the Tunisian public to sedition.

Six are charged in connection with a series of bombings in August at Tunisian resort hotels

in which 13 people were injured, most of them European tourists. Forty of the accused are being tried in absentia.

In his closing arguments before the court, Mr. Zayani said: "the facts and arguments prove that the Islamic Tendency Movement (MTI) prepared for a long time and planned violent actions to attack the state and overthrow the regime."

Among those on trial is Rached Ghannouchi, president of the Islamic Tendency Move-

## French ships hunt for mines in Sea of Oman

PARIS (R) — A French minesweeping force has reached the Sea of Oman and started hunting for mines in international waters near the mouth of the Gulf.

Defence Minister Andre Giraud said on Monday.

Mr. Giraud said the French vessels had been operating on Friday some 30 miles off Fujairah, part of the United Arab Emirates.

He said the French Navy was the first of several Western fleets to start clearing the sea lanes, where Iranian speedboats have attacked commercial shipping.

"They are there to protect international interests. Everyone wants the international waters in which they are working and which are used by tankers to be cleared of mines," the minister said on French radio.

On Aug. 17 France sent the minehunters Garigliano, Cantho and Vinh-Long, with a support vessel, to clear mines out of the Gulf as the Iran-Iraq war threatened merchant shipping.

The United States is using minesweeping helicopters to clear the path in front of convoys of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers under escort in the Gulf by the American navy.

The Pentagon is also sending six minesweepers to the Gulf to join about 34 U.S. warships already in the area.

TEL AVIV (AP) — Parliament on Monday rejected a motion to establish a commission of inquiry into the role of former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon during Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Israeli military correspondents Zeev Schiff and Ehud Yaari wrote in their book the Lebanon War that Sharon misled the cabinet about his intentions to drive the Israeli army all the way to Beirut instead of stopping 40 kilometres into Lebanon.

"I personally was in a unit 60 kilometres north of the Israeli border on the first day of the war," said Cohen, a reserve colonel in a paratrooper unit. "We were under orders to continue north to Beirut."

During his parliament speech, Cohen waved a copy of what he said was a note written by Maj. Yonathan Harnik, commander of the Golani Brigade, to one of his men.

"Harnik asked his aide to bring him maps of Beirut," said Cohen. "That was on the first day of the war."

Harnik was killed a day later during an assault on Beaufort Castle in southern Lebanon.

Sharon said during his Aug. 11 speech at Tel Aviv University that political and military leaders were aware of the possibility that Israel might have to go to Beirut to drive out Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) commandos.

In the past two years, Israel has increased the use of controversial measures such as deportation and detention without trial to stifle resistance in the area.

The sources said Sheb had held the post for more than two years, longer than any of his predecessors, and his departure was a normal military change of command without political overtones.

The Jerusalem Post on Monday quoted informed sources as linking his departure to disagreements among senior officials on policy towards the Palestinian population in the occupied territories.

Poland and Israel last year set up a similar framework of limited diplomatic relations.

All Eastern European countries except Romania followed Moscow in severing ties with the

Arab states during the 1967 war.

The Israeli announcement said the pact was designed to promote economic, trade, cultural and human relations and "facilitate consular matters" between the two countries, the Israeli statement said.

Meanwhile Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has said in an interview with a Yugoslav magazine that he saw no reason why Yugoslavia and Israel should not renew diplomatic ties, the official Tanjug News Agency said.

The interview appeared on Monday in the weekly magazine Danas in the north west city of Zagreb, the agency said.

The economic offices will be set up "in the near future" at the Swedish embassy in Tel Aviv and the Swiss embassy in Budapest, which will continue to represent the two countries' diplomatic interests, the Israeli statement said.

The meeting between Mr. Shultz and Simcha Dinitz, a former Israeli ambassador to the United States, took place on Saturday at Mr. Shultz's Washington residence, the television said Sunday.

Dinitz, a legislator from the left-leaning Labour Party, met with Mr. Shultz on behalf of Israeli Foreign Minister and Labour Party leader Shimon Peres.

Mr. Shultz will hold three days of talks with Mr. Shevardnadze starting Tuesday, while Peres is scheduled to meet with his Soviet counterpart at the U.N. General Assembly session in New York later this month.

The meeting between Mr. Shultz and Mr. Shevardnadze is expected to focus on the issue of disarmament, but Israeli media said last week that the two will also discuss the question of Soviet Jewish emigration.

In an apparent effort to ease American pressure over their human rights record, the Soviets have recently granted exit visas to about two dozen Jews.

## Guadalcanal joins outbound Gulf convoy

### ABOARD THE U.S.S. GUADALCANAL (Agencies)

The U.S. helicopter carrier Guadalcanal linked up with a convoy of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers early Monday to conduct mine-sweeping operations as the ships headed out of the Gulf.

The 18,000-tonne helicopter carrier and other warships of the escort group went to the highest state of alert as they approached waters where Iranian speedboats have attacked commercial shipping.

Capt. Dirren would not comment on the report of Libyan aid to Iran.

U.S. officers have said previously that shipping channels in the northern Gulf were believed to have been mined by Iran, which has been at war with Iraq for seven years. The war spilled over into the Gulf in 1984.

The 177-kilometre Strait of Hormuz, the gateway to the Gulf, is regarded by the United States as a high-risk area because of Iranian naval activity and the batteries of Chinese-built Silk-worm missiles along the Iranian coast.

Iran itself would probably suffer most from a mining of the strait, because it depends on the narrow outlet for shipping all its oil exports.

Capt. Dirren said the navy had not turned up any mines because the primary mission of the Sea

third day with sonar detectors that can detect even more sophisticated types of mines — those triggered by sound, water pressure or magnetic detection while resting on the seabed.

News reports have recently suggested that Libya, which was widely suspected of being responsible for a major mine scare in the Red Sea and Gulf of Suez in 1984, may have supplied Iran with more sophisticated devices.

Capt. Dirren would not comment on the report of Libyan aid to Iran.

Monday's outbound group, the eighth one-way convoy since U.S. President Ronald Reagan began his programme of reflagging Kuwaiti tankers, included the petroleum products carriers Silk City, and the Chesapeake City.

The Sealift Mediterranean, a U.S. merchant marine tanker, joined the convoy for the run through Hormuz.

Escort vessels in addition to the Guadalcanal included the guided missile frigates Rentz and Flattery.

Of the 11 government-owned Kuwaiti tankers designated for reflagging, only one has yet to raise the U.S. flag — the 290,000-tonne Al Funtas, soon to be renamed Middleton.

U.S. officials say the Middleton will go into drydock in Dubai for conversion to a gas products carrier before it joins the reflagging.

Stallions and other mine-clearing equipment was to guarantee safe passage of the tanker convoys.

He said the convoys have not ventured into areas where mines were believed to be located.

There have been no mine scares involving the U.S.-escorted convoys since the 401,382-tonne supertanker Bridgeton struck a submerged mine in the shipping channel of Iran-held Faris Island in the northern Gulf on July 24, during the first inbound voyage.

"Mine-like objects" in naval parlance are submerged things with defined shapes that give sharp resolution on a sonar scope.

"A very high percentage of the things you see turn out to be old refrigerators, oil drums and other sunken junk," said Commander Howard Nesbitt, 42, executive officer of the Guadalcanal.

Although the Sea Stallion has found no contact mines inside the Gulf, U.S. officers insist such mines are there — most likely in shipping channels that have not been checked and that the convoys are avoiding.

They said on Sunday there was no evidence to suggest that acoustic, magnetic or pressure-triggered mines were being sown in the Gulf.

"The important thing is that we're keeping the convoys moving," said Commander Ed Sacio, head of the Sea Stallion-squadron.

## Shultz, Israeli MP discuss talks with Soviets

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz met with an Israeli legislator to work out a joint U.S.-Israeli position for the upcoming talks with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Israel Television said.

On Sunday, Dekel was attacked from within his own party as the young Begin responded: "Those who speak of transferring (the Palestinians), I want to ask you where would you transfer the Herut Party?"

Begin, 43, who is viewed as a possible heir to his father in the party, also assaulted Dekel's idea in an Israel Television interview early Monday.

He accused Dekel of "diffusing the boundaries between the Herut and the monstrous theory represented by (Meir) Kahane," an extremist American-born legislator who has won a parlia-

ment seat in 1984 on a platform calling for the expulsion of Palestinians.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, leader of the left-leaning Labour Party, has called Dekel's idea the product of a "sick and distorted mind" while three other legislators have urged Dekel's dismissal.

## Dajani supports goals of security conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani said Monday that the 12th Conference of Arab Police Chiefs opening in Amman on Tuesday constitutes yet another step on the part of Arab countries to strengthen their defences against crime and ensure security for their citizens.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, on the eve of the meeting, which will be attended by delegations from 16 Arab countries, the minister said that the conference offers an opportunity for participants to coordinate efforts and exchange expertise and experience.

The Arab ministers of interior have been patronising the meetings of the police chiefs, whose success in providing security and stability for their countries will further strengthen Arab solidarity, Mr. Dajani noted. He said that the Jordanian Ministry of Interior hopes that the conference will come up with resolu-

tions and recommendations which will contribute to this goal.

The three-day meeting will discuss the concept of universal security and the relationship between security and development, among other major themes, according to Mr. Akram Nashaat, secretary-general of the Arab Interior Ministers Council which has organised the meeting.

Mr. Nashaat told Petra that the delegations will look into means for implementing recommendations passed by earlier meetings and by individual Arab ministers of interior.

Meanwhile, delegations from Oman, Yemen Arab Republic, Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen, Iraq, and Bahrain arrived here on Monday to take part in the conference. The delegations were received upon arrival by Director of Public Security Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, Dr. Nashaat, and senior public security officers.

## Official to finalise wheat deal in Saudi Arabia

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply led by Mr. Abdullah Al Hawamdeh, the ministry's under secretary, has left for Saudi Arabia for talks on the purchase of Saudi Arabian wheat.

The talks, which are due to begin today, are expected to last several days, and will deal with additional shipments of Saudi wheat to Jordan.

Saudi Arabia; earlier this year sold Jordan unspecified amounts of wheat; there was no indication from the ministry of the size of the shipment.

## Ministers discuss unemployment

AMMAN (Petra) — Means of solving the unemployment problems in the country were the subject of discussion at a meeting held at the Prime Ministry on Monday. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Abdul Wahab Al Majali, chairman of the special committee in charge of following up on unemployment in Jordan. The committee members' measures aimed at overcoming the problem of unemployment, in the light of the decisions of the ministerial committee on the subject.

## Universities announce new student acceptances

IRBID (Petra) — The Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) announced Monday that it has accepted 360 male and female students to enrol in various faculties for the 1987-1988 academic year. New lists of accepted students will be made public once the number of those who will actually attend classes is known, according to the announcement.

Yarmouk University said Sunday that a total of 630 male and female students have been accepted so far to enrol at its faculties for the 1987-1988 academic year, and that more will be accepted before the reopening of the university in the coming month.

## EC assails Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Perez de Cuellar and the increasing involvement to European navies in the region.

Mr. Ellemann-Jensen said the ministers agreed to send a quick response to Morocco's request to join the community but reiterated that membership was restricted to European states.

"We are very eager to present our goodwill in order to maintain and increase the very close and deep relationship between the European Community and Morocco both in the economic field and in the political field," he said.

France's minister for European affairs, Bernard Bosson, told reporters it was clear Morocco could not join but added:

## U.S. presents new draft treaty

(Continued from page 1)

Both sides said this could clear the way for a summit in Washington between Mr. Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Reagan said key elements of the new U.S. proposal were: — Elimination of all U.S. and Soviet INF missiles and launchers, with medium-range weapons eliminated within three years and shorter-range within one year.

— A ban on the modernisation, production or flight testing of any INF missile system.

— A comprehensive and effective verification regime tailored to a global double-zero outcome.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the pace of his administration's secret arms deals and contacts with Iran, which became the biggest scandal of his presidency.

He said that difficult issues remained to be resolved, including verification.

## Deputy prime minister affirms support for W. Bank farmers

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali on Monday stressed the government's continuous support for farmers in the occupied West Bank and for the Agricultural Cooperation Federation's (ACF) efforts to provide cooperative services to West Bank farmers.

At a meeting with members of the board of directors of the ACF, Mr. Majali reviewed the agricultural situation in the occupied West Bank, as well as the services rendered to farmers by the federation. They also discus-

sed means for further improving the situation of farmers in the occupied territory, to help them remain steadfast in their homeland.

ACF Board of Directors Chairman Tahseen Al Fares, along with the board members, praised the Jordanian government's efforts to support the steadfastness of their kinsmen in the occupied Arab territories.

Later in the day, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin received the de-

legation members and discussed with them issues pertaining to the problem of marketing West Bank agricultural products. Mr. Dudin pointed out the importance of rationalising production, in terms of quality and quantity.

He also stressed the government's support for the farmers in the occupied Arab territories, and said that, "the government will spare no effort to provide assistance to the farmers in the occupied Arab territories in the light of the available resources."

## JEA says 656 villages electrified

AMMAN (Petra) — A report by the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) said Monday that 656 Jordanian villages inhabited by nearly one-million people were supplied with electricity between 1975 and 1986. It said that these villages constitute 93 per cent of the total of the rural regions in the Kingdom.

According to the report the JEA spent JD 10 million between 1976 and 1980 and JD 20 million during the 1981-1985 five-year plan on its rural electrification projects. In the current five-year plan, the report said, the JEA plans to spend nearly JD 19 mil-

lion on various electrification schemes in rural regions.

A total of 183,335 subscribers in rural regions benefited from JEA power supply in 1986, most of which was consumed for domestic use, the report noted.

It said that JEA, in cooperation with the Jordan Electricity Company and the Iridh District Electricity Company, will supply electricity to 288 villages during the current five-year plan.

On Monday, the JEA said that it has completed work on connecting two villages in Karak Governorate with electricity. This project is part of a JD 1-million, includes a 132,000-kilowatt, double-circuit relay line, iron towers, porcelain insulators, and aerial steel wires.

## Ambassador, tourism head say exhibit highlights cultural exchange

By Salameh B. Ne'matt  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter



AMMAN — The stage is almost set for the opening on Oct. 2 of a major Jordanian cultural exhibition in the Federal Republic of Germany. The exhibition includes an archaeological collection, an ethnographic exhibit, and an accompanying display of a documentation of Jordanian village architecture.

A joint press conference by Tourism Authority Director-General Nasri Atalla and West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels announced Monday that the exhibit, to be held at the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum in Cologne, was a major landmark in cultural cooperation and exchange between Jordan and the West Germany.

The six-month exhibition, perhaps the Kingdom's most important exhibition abroad, will display an archaeological collection displayed in Paris last year. The collection represents "4,000 Years of Art in the Kingdom of Jordan." It consists of authentic objects from the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology at the Yarmouk University, representing Prehistoric, Biblical, Greco-Roman, Naharrean, Byzantine, and Islamic periods.

The ethnographic section of the exhibition entitled "Splendour and Secrets — Costumes from Jordan and Palestine," focuses on Mrs. Widat Qawar's collection of Jordanian and Palestinian costumes and jewelry, and the ethnographic collection of the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology at the Yarmouk University. Jordanian artist and architect Ammar Khammash, 27, who is a graduate student at the institute will be exhibiting his work, along with the ethnological objects, photographs, drawings, and watercolours documenting the essential aspects of traditional village life in Jordan.

The university will announce new lists of admitted students when the final number of students enrolling in different faculties is known, Mr. Rifai said.

He also said that acceptance of non-Jordanian students at Yarmouk University requires prior approval by the Ministry of Higher Education.

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## Reasserting role of U.N.

THE 42nd session of the U.N. General Assembly convenes in New York today amid concern over the fate of Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's peace mission to the Gulf and the prospects for a summit between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The debates within the conference halls of the U.N. as well as the negotiations in the corridors of the U.N., away from the limelight of the assembly hall, will once again attempt to tackle the same 140-item agenda of this year's session. The Middle East conflict, the Palestine case, will undoubtedly receive the same routine attention it has received in the past and will surely harvest even more verbose resolutions. In fact, it is highly probable that most of the items on this year's agenda will be debated as hasty and ineffectively as ever, and will reap resolutions duplicating, for the most part, the provisions of earlier resolutions with one marked difference: an additional paragraph or two.

Many delegates from the various regimens of the world will also await anxiously the outcome of the Shultz-Shevardnadze talks in Washington, in which the fate of the anticipated agreement on intermediate-range nuclear weapons between Washington and Moscow will surely rest. The results of these talks between the foreign ministers of the U.S. and the Soviet Union will certainly determine the prospects for a superpower summit. The community of member countries of the United Nations have already taken political notice that the superpowers' agenda will concentrate, this year, at least on nuclear disarmament, the Gulf conflict, and measures to reduce tension in Latin America. Yet they are expected to pay lip service to the Middle East conflict, the Palestinian conflict to appease Arab sensitivities. Meanwhile, Arab delegates are expected to be dual-minded, concentrating on the two main crises in the Arab World, the Palestinian conflict and the Gulf war, with the latter receiving the lion's share of their genuine concern in view of the fact that it is now the more volatile and pressing issue. In this regard, full 'credit,' or rather 'responsibility,' for this alarming sense of priorities in the Arab agenda goes to the disunity in the ranks of the Arab countries vis-à-vis the Gulf conflict which, in turn, made it possible for the Gulf war to continue until now without an honourable end in sight.

The Arab delegates participating in this year's sessions will emerge feeling triumphant and will graduate from its multifaceted discussions feeling relieved for having scored similar verbal successes as their colleagues have done on previous occasions. After all that is why we have the U.N.; without these annual rituals, the weak, disillusioned, and frustrated, small or powerless countries will have no place in airing their grievances in the company of fellow representatives of other, more powerful, countries.

No matter how much we try to belittle the political achievements of the U.N. system as a whole, one can hardly gloss over its marked achievements in economic, social and legal matters on the international as well as regional levels. Through the U.N., we have achieved outstanding advancements in the fields of health, environmental control, disarmament, and human rights, in name only a few. The struggle against apartheid, and similar crimes against humanity all over the world, cannot pass without recognition. We need the U.N. and its system and network of activities in spite of all its shortcomings which are, after all, due to the failings of the member states themselves. It is incumbent on us all to support the U.N. during this year's session by asking the representatives of the member states to rise above their petty differences and to concentrate on propositions which can advance peace and harmony among the peoples of the earth.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: U.N. failure

THE United Nations Security Council has not been able to reach a resolution condemning Israel's recent air raid on Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp in Lebanon. This gives us a feeling of deep concern and frustration because the international community has witnessed an open and unprovoked aggression on a U.N. member nation causing the death and injury of innocent civilians. Those countries which had been opposing any condemnation of Israel's aggression and barbaric attacks on civilian population, used to justify their position by expressing fear that such condemnation would harm the process of peace. They used to say that such condemnation by the council would result in negative reaction by Israel which might escalate its aggression and pursue aggressive acts against Arab states and avoid making peace with the Arabs. But this stand on the part of these countries has not yielded constructive results and did not reflect positively on the peace process. This stand if anything, has encouraged the Israelis to pursue their aggression and their air raids on innocent civilian Palestinians in their camps. It is a pity to see that such world countries continue to brag about principles, values and human rights as they continue to see Israel pursuing its terrorist activity and its killing of innocent civilians without any condemnation or any measure to deter the aggressors.

### Al Dustour: Tehran continues to manoeuvre

AS was expected by observers, the U.N. secretary general has ended his visit to Tehran without arriving at any progress to achieve peace or to bring about a ceasefire in the Gulf conflict. The U.N. Security Council has dispatched Javier Perez de Cuellar to the Gulf region in the hope of urging the Iranian regime to implement its Resolution 598 aimed at ending the conflict between Iran and Iraq. Although Iran's statements so far did not explicitly indicate that Tehran refuses the resolution outright, yet Iran's behaviour, its escalation of tension during De Cuellar's visit and hints dropped by its leaders, all point to the fact that the rulers in Tehran adhere to their stand and refuse to implement the council resolution which enjoyed total world support. As Iran is refusing to comply to the will of the international community, the council is bound to meet again in the near future to hear a report from the secretary general on his mission and to assess the situation before taking further steps. Once it is clear to the council that Iran refuses the council resolution, measures are expected to be taken for imposing sanctions on that country. Once sanctions are imposed on the Iranians, the end of the Gulf conflict will be in sight, since Tehran rulers will be denied the means to continue their aggression.

## The View from Second Circle

# Some proposals for the next parliament

By Rami G. Khouri

THERE has been considerable speculation during the past year about whether a general election will be held soon to elect a new Lower House of Parliament, to replace the existing house whose term expires in January. Many interesting theories have been proposed about why an election will or will not be held, with people citing domestic, regional and international phenomena to support their viewpoints.

It has all been quite interesting to try to predict the course of parliamentary life in the near future, though I think we may have been focussing on the wrong aspect of our parliamentary life. More important than when a general election will be held, I suggest, is the question of the structure and role of parliament in Jordan today, on which I would offer the following points for consideration:

1) It is time for a fulltime, year-round parliament, to replace the present situation of parliamentarians who have other fulltime vocations and who carry out their parliamentary duties intermittently, when the house is called into session by the speaker. The range and complexity of public issues we face as a country are far greater than those which Jordanian parliamentarians had to deal with in the 50s and 60s.

Despite the increased capacity of the executive branch of government to deal with contemporary issues and challenges, it is unrealistic to expect ministers and their staffs to be able to cope with the wide range of subjects that our society faces today. Fulltime parliamentarians would instantly provide another 142 thoughtful and energetic minds to the pool of people involved in public policy formulation. This would attract even more of our most capable people to run for elections, and would considerably enrich the process of public debate. A fulltime parliament would necessarily bring with it some structural changes in how parliament functions, such as:

2) The formation of fulltime parliamentary committees, equipped with research facilities and professional staff members to help the members of parliament conduct the kind of dispassionate factual research that is an essential requirement of any legislative process based on principles of pluralism and majority votes. We deal today with national issues which will determine the course of our development for decades to come, including issues of education, economic development, the use of natural resources, opportunities for women, the status of children, water and bilateral and

regional relationships.

In the past two decades, executive decision-making in Jordan (and most of the Third World, to be fair to Jordan) has been characterised by inconsistent policies which can change with a change of government or minister. Fulltime research facilities and staff would allow the parliament to carry out another important function, which is:

3) Holding public committee hearings on issues of national concern. The pattern in Jordan to date has been to recognise a problem after it has become quite acute (such as unemployment, deficiencies in the civil service or a distorted education system out of step with labour market needs), and then to tackle it by holding a national conference. Follow-up in such cases is not always assured. We have the manpower in Jordan to anticipate such challenges at a much earlier stage, and we need an institutionalised mechanism to respond quicker, and before the problems become too big to deal with easily.

Parliamentary committee hearings are a good means to do this. Committees on agriculture, education, water, natural resources, industry, labour, tourism and other sectors would develop the kind of institutional expertise and national corporate memory we now lack. Our executive branch institutions, such as ministries, authorities and departments, have their hands full implementing current policies and programmes, and lack the time needed to step back from day-to-day pressures to assess trends in the next several decades and propose measures to meet future needs.

Parliamentary committee staffs would also be able to publish reports and proceedings of hearings, which would make vital information on public issues more readily available to the general public — an essential component of democratic life. The committee should also assume another crucial function, which is:

4) To hold hearings on key appointments of public officials. Jordan is lucky to be blessed with an extraordinarily high quality of senior officials in the public sector. Our weak point, however, is that as new officials are appointed, the public has no idea of the policies they will implement. By holding hearings on the appointments of senior officials, parliamentary committees could provide an invaluable service by clarifying the views of new appointees, and in the process would contribute substantially and intelligently to public policy options and discussions. Such hearings would also

help provide the sort of continuity which we sometimes lack today.

5) Parliament should also be more diligently involved in formulating fiscal policy, notably by holding far more extensive hearings on the annual national budget. The budget now is prepared by the executive branch and submitted to parliament about a month or so before the start of the new year. It would seem appropriate for the budget to be submitted to parliament at least three months before the start of the fiscal year, which would give time for standing parliamentary committees to analyse the budget in far greater detail with the executive branch of government.

A stronger parliamentary role in fiscal policy would probably lead to more accurate budget forecasts, and would thereby help alleviate the chronic problem of overspending and annual reliance on end-of-the-year borrowings which are only referred to parliament after the fact. Our national debt has grown to the point where we cannot easily expect to keep borrowing, domestically or internationally, without having to pay a price either in our debt service ratio or in the credibility of our economic management capabilities.

6) Parliament should also have a more substantive role in assuring that our executive branch performs to its best abilities. Committee hearings would be one mechanism by which parliament could hold executive branch officials and institutions more accountable before the general public. More stringent public accountability procedures would be very useful in helping assure that our limited financial resources are allocated in the most appropriate manner, and that decisions on allocations are then implemented in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

7) And finally, it seems to me that a fulltime parliament with research staff and facilities and standing committees would be the most effective way to tap the full human and intellectual resources of our country — a country which is renowned for exporting top quality manpower. One of our ironic weaknesses as a country that exports brains is that we seem to lack independent think tanks and research organisations that can contribute to debates on public policy formulation. The private sector has not played this role, and neither have our educational institutions. Parliament is the appropriate forum for such endeavours — because parliament is constitutionally charged with the task of legislating, and is politically delegated to represent the wishes of the people.



## A Sunday in South Lebanon

By Paul Fielder

THE most popular beach in South Lebanon is the "Workers Liberation" beach at Rumaila, just north of Sidon. On any Sunday throughout the summer the beach is packed with sunbathers, swimmers, singers and dancers, and people who bring an ample Lebanese lunch, often starting a barbecue to grill kebabs and kofta. People come from all over — from Beqaa, from Beirut, and most notably from the deep south, where it is forbidden to drink araq and to old parties. Women sunbathe in bikinis or fashionable one-pieces, and splash in the water with boyfriends, brothers or cousins.

Rumaila falls in the Communist "canton," a political military centre which does a roaring trade in alcohol. The few wealthy citizens from Sidon, where the sale of alcohol is still banned except in one fashionable restaurant owned by a member of the Junblatt family, come to buy their araq, whisky and beer, or lunch in the thriving restaurants overlooking the sea. It is from Rumaila that Lebanon's newest and most lively radio station broadcasts — *Sau al-Sa'a b.*, the voice of the people — on which Fairuz's son, Ziad Rahbani, known as the "conscience of Lebanon" has a regular irreverent slot of music and jokes.

From "Workers' Liberation" beach you can just about bear the Israeli jets going over 'Ain Al Hilweh Palestinian camp in the afternoon. Raids on the camp, inflicting loss of life and damage, have always taken place in the afternoon. So the people in the camp have changed their schedules — UNRWA schools finish at lunch time and kindergartens do not operate an afternoon session. Sunday is quite a likely day for the Israelis to make a dummy run over the camp. Saturday having been a day of rest. (This article was printed before the Israeli raids of Sept. 5, a Saturday.)

Although the air raids inflicting casualties and damage have been recorded in the Western media, little is made of the sometimes nightly raids by jets or helicopters with gunships. Pandemonium breaks out in the camp as the clatter of helicopters is followed by the deafening rush of two or three flares fired from above. At first no-one is sure whether the sound denotes rockets or just flares. Thereafter, for ten minutes or more the camp is lit as bright as day as people scurry for shelter. In the distance is the sound of the air raid siren, while all around are shouts and screams of children as they rush from roofs and open spaces. In the beginning people would stay put to watch the effects of the raid, but following the deaths of so many innocent bystanders they have learnt their

lesson. And it is only five years since similar flares were used to light the skies over Sahra and Shatila camps in Beirut.

This year has been a hard one for children in the camp. Schools were closed for four months during the clashes between the Palestinians and Amal, another disrupted academic year. And in the meantime the raids have increased, adding an extra dimension to night time terror. Over the last year the camp has been filled to bursting by Palestinian refugees fleeing the south from the daily intimidation and harassment faced by residents of Bourj Al Shimali, Bass and Rashidiyya camps. The streets are full of rubble and rubbish, most houses are deserted, with pock-marked walls and the blackened blenches of fire and smoke. An old Christian plumber is repairing the water supplies on a street by street basis, although there is still no indication of when electricity will be reconnected. The Palestinian frontline is still discernible — walls bear the slogans of separate Palestinian factions, an arrow points south and bears the shaky but legible English inscription "Palestine."

The town is guarded by a new militia called *Jaish Al Ansar*, whose young men in smart uniforms have clearly undergone some form of military training. The unit is identified with Amal, and it is said that it was hired out of the universal criticism levelled at Amal, and its barbaric behaviour during the "war of the camps". *Jaish Al Ansar* members are courageous and polite, and seem to be doing a reasonable job of providing security and preventing large-scale looting of homes. An old Christian plumber is repairing the water supplies on a street by street basis, although there is still no indication of when electricity will be reconnected. The Palestinian frontline is still discernible — walls bear the slogans of separate Palestinian factions, an arrow points south and bears the shaky but legible English inscription "Palestine."

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If there is one experience of misery that binds all the Lebanese together, whatever confession or nationality, it is the collapse of the Lebanese pound. In 1985 the Lebanese pound was still under 10 to the dollar — now it has passed the 200 mark. For an economy entirely dependent on imported goods and lacking adequate state-financed services, the effects on ordinary family life are dramatic — families are faced with the choice of having medical treatment or eating. Local humanitarian organisations report cases where parents have abandoned hope for one sick child in terms of medical treatment or to pay the school fees of the other children.

Back on the beach at Rumaila, all confessions, Christians, Muslims and Druze, come together for an afternoon's enjoyment, to swim, laugh and forget. Amid the brown flesh and sun-tan oil are the memories of the peace that was once the norm in Lebanon — Middle East International, London.

## British unions learn to live with Thatcher

By Deborah Telford  
Reuter

BLACKPOOL, England — Britain's trade union leaders are smartening themselves up, toning down their rhetoric of class struggle and talking high-tech — all because of the woman most of them loathe to hate, Margaret Thatcher.

Her re-election in June for five more years has prodded the leaders of the British labour movement into realising that they must change their image and broaden their appeal.

Since Thatcher was first elected in 1979, high unemployment, changing job patterns, her privatisation policies and laws to curb union strength have seriously eroded support for unions whose political power peaked in the 1970s.

Membership of the Trade Union Congress (TUC), the unions' umbrella group, has plummeted 25 per cent to just over nine million, the same number as the number of shareholders in Britain.

Jobs have disappeared in the traditionally unionised state sector and manual industries while union organisation is weak in new high-tech and white-collar jobs that have replaced them.

A Mori opinion poll this month showed a majority of members think their unions are dominated by extremists, out of touch with rank and file and too closely linked with the opposition Labour Party.

At the TUC's first post-election conference this month, most delegates scoffed at charges that they were stuck in the 1930s mould of cloth-capped Communist-inspired stirrers who regarded unions primarily as instruments of class struggle.

But when Scargill, left-wing leader of the National Miners Union, said the moves were "prostituting the principles of the trade union movement."

But when Scargill, who led the coalminers during Britain's longest strike from March 1984 to

March 1985, attempted to stop part of the TUC review, his efforts were overruled.

"He was trounced, absolutely trounced. That tells you the mood of the movement," Bill

for the fact that, unlike the other 28 million printed, the candles were burning upside down.

What appears to have happened is that employees of the CIA, which is awash with intelligence analysts making sophisticated judgments on scraps of raw data like spy satellite photos and stamps, spotted the error on a 95-cent stamp purchased at the local post office.

They did so after nine had been used and one accidentally torn. On the advice of a local dealer they sold the remaining 85 stamps to Mr. Schiff for a "low five-figure" sum, a convincing detail since — as with those underpriced TOW missiles and Hawks sold to Iran via Manucher Ghorbanifar — they could be worth \$10 million on the open market.

They said they worked in an office where they found the stamps. They claimed they didn't want their names used in any way because their boss might find out," recalled Mr. Schiff, a major dealer, who announced his purchase to the trade a month later in May, 1986. But it was only when the Bureau of Engraving held its own inquest that the facts were put together and finally published by Mr. Yeager with the help of a suspicious stamp dealer. He obtained the bureau's report under the Freedom of Information Act. "I was sort of wondering whether the money had gone to the contras," he told the New York Times — The Guardian.

## LETTERS

### Please help

To the Editor:

I WAS most interested to read the article about backache in the Jordan Times (Sept. 7). I do agree with Professor Spangfort's statement that doctors can seldom help backache sufferers. I have had back problems for many years as a result of an accident. Doctors could do nothing, and I was in agony for a long time until someone advised me to go to a chiropractor.

Since then I have had regular treatment in Britain, which has kept me "mobile". I have now been in Amman for five weeks and am in urgent need of treatment. Is there a chiropractor available who can help me? Surely the football team must know of one! If so, please write to me at P.O. Box 184540, Amman.

Chris Larter

## Portraits of the Arab World

By Nadia Hijab

LAST WEEK'S showing of Egyptian director Youssef Chahine's *The Land* at the National Film Theatre is a first in more ways than one. It is the first of 21 films from the Arab World that will be shown at the NFT through September and October, and it is the first time that an Arab film festival has been held in London, 10 years after the first Arab film was made, in Cairo.

British audiences will have the chance to see not just classics like *The Land*, which Chahine made in 1969 about a young peasant who rebels against the loss of his only source of livelihood. More recent works are on offer, like the highly acclaimed *City Dreams* by Syria's Mohammad Malas. This is a partly-autobiographical tale of a little boy whose world shifts between the safety of home and the tumultuous Damascus of the 1950s with its mixture of military coups, elections, the Suez crisis and aspirations to Arab unity.

Another Syrian film on show is Douraid Lahham's epic *The Frontiers*. Lahham's caustic treatment of Arab regimes has just as much relevance to Levant audiences as to those in North Africa, where his shows sell out.

There is a strong showing by

Algerian directors, who have produced some of the best Arab cinema over the years, Mohammad Lakhdar-Hamina's *Years of the Brazier*, which won the 1975 Palme d'Or at Cannes, focuses on two villages struck by drought and typhoid that still manage to mount an uprising against the French colonialists.

But not all problems disappear with independence — and some get worse. This is the message behind Abdel Aziz Torbi's *Noua*, which portrays daily life in post-independence Algeria. Social comedy is the hallmark of Slim Riad's work, as seen in *Hassan Taxi*, the tale of the anti-hero Hassan who sees life through a cab window.

Meanwhile, other Egyptian classics will be shown; like Chahine's *The Sparrow* which tackles the Arab defeat in the June war of 1967 and which was banned for many years, much of the Arab World.

And director Salar Abu Seif, who has been described as the "father of Egyptian realism," is represented by *The Water Carrier* is Dead which portrays life in a poor quarter of Cairo. Ali Badrakhan's *Hunger* has a poignant message for all Third World countries, which Hussein Kamal's *The Postman* looks at the still

powerful social custom of linking family-honour to the sexual purity of women, and the tragedy this visits on society.

Other films in the festival include, from the Gulf, Kuwaiti director Khaled Sadiq's *The Cruel Sea*; from Lebanon, Maroun Baghdadi's masterpiece on the civil war, *Little Wars*, and Bourhan Alawiyeh's *Kafir Qassem*, the moving reconstruction of the Israeli massacre in that Palestinian village.

That the festival has taken place at all, is thanks to nearly two years work and not a little frustration on the part of Middle East specialists Rose Issa, manager of Kutz Gallery, and Jana Gough, a freelance editor.

"I became really determined to bring more Arab cinema to English-speaking audiences when I went to see a film that Time Out had described as the "best Arab film," says Issa. "I don't want to mention the film's name, because a lot of hard work had gone into it, but it certainly wasn't the best."

Rose is in a position to know, having been involved in setting up the first Arab film festival in Paris, now in its fifth year, and having worked at the Cannes festival for three years.

Jana Gough was equally deter-



A scene from Moroccan film *Traces*

minded: "I'd been a member of the NFT ever since I can remember. As a British cinematographer I had the opportunity to see films from places like Cuba and Vietnam — but rarely an Arab film, although I knew the NFT tried to get them."

Little is known about Arab cinema in the English-speaking world: International film dictionaries regularly omit even such key figures as Youssef Chahine, the festival organisers point out. This is partly the fault of Arab

governments, which do not yet take film-making seriously enough.

"Almost none of the Arab countries has a cinematheque, and there is little awareness of the importance of preserving films and having reference copies. Really the history of Arab cinema is at risk," Rose says worriedly.

"Our dream," adds Jana, "is to build an archive of Arab cinema."

Meanwhile, they're settling for the less ambitious option of persuading bodies like the British

Film Institute to purchase classics and keep them in their libraries. The fact that the London Arab film festival is to be an annual event will certainly help.

Through the festival, the organisers hope, British audiences will be introduced to the many Arab "talented, non-conformist directors, motivated by the desire to analyse their country's social history and to denounce not only

the less ambitious option of per-

suading bodies like the British

## Rogue radio operator just another hassle in Gulf

By Jeffrey Bartholet

Reuter

DUBAI — The ship's captain, contacted by an Iranian gunboat demanding to know what he was carrying, was startled when a voice breaks into the radio link to answer:

"Bombs, rockets, atom bombs."

The "Filipino monkey" bad track again.

It's meant to be a joke. But the captains are not amused these days with tension running high in the Gulf and Iranian warships liable to fire on foreign merchant ships.

The renegade radio operator known as the "Filipino monkey" has become notorious in the radio rooms of the southern Gulf.

Shippers do not know the nationality of the operator, who started off several years back and revelled in abusing Filipino sailors on ships plying the Gulf. They think the "Filipino monkey" now has many imitators.

The original so-called was derived from the derogatory phrase used by the VHF shipping channel to abuse Filipino seamen, often in the eerie hours of the graveyard watch.

In a region where ships have to run the gauntlet of mines and missiles, the "Filipino monkey" is a relatively minor irritant. But it is one skipper can do without.

"If I ever find one (like him) on one of my boats, I'll throw him right off," said one ex-captain, now a shipping agent.

Shipping agents who monitor the radio waves say the rogue operator usually starts by hating Filipino seamen with barbs like "Filipino, Filipino, punky Filipino."

"Then some Filipino seaman will get on to abuse him," the agent said.

"There might be a Greek who gets on to stick up for the Filipinos, and then he curses the Greek."

Filipinos make up many of the crews operating in the Gulf.

One shipping source said the "Filipino monkey" was a form of entertainment for crews who risked their lives in the midst of a foreign war.

Crew members entering the war zone can treble their pay with danger money.

The risks are real. More than 350 ships have been attacked since the Iran-Iraq war spilled over into the sea lanes in 1981.

Iraq attacks from the air, sending warplanes to fire missiles at tankers ferrying Iran's oil out of the Gulf.

Iran attacks from the sea. Because Iraq no longer ships oil through the waterway, Iran targets foreign vessels operating to and from Gulf states like Kuwait which support Iraq in the war.

The Iranian navy sends its gunboats to shell or shoot missiles at ships, or revolutionary guards in high-speed launches will mount hit-and-run raids, raking vessels with machinegun fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

The Iranian navy regularly intercepts shipping entering the Gulf, exercising its right to check if they are carrying war material for Iraq.

Special manuals for ships plying the Gulf offer captains specific advice.

If challenged by an Iranian gunboat, "just state name and nationality ... do not give the destination/previous port information."

The Iranians sometimes locate vessels by monitoring radio signals — encouraging most ships to observe radio silence.

Abusive chatter over VHF channels is illegal worldwide, but not uncommon. It is difficult to track violators.

A few radiomen believe the "Filipino monkey" is based on an offshore oil rig in the region.

"Always during the night watch, you get guys who go stir crazy," said the ex-captain.

He added a favourite pastime for lonely radio operators in his day was imitating farmyard noises — *The Washington Post*.

there is a new generation of young American academics.

There are flourishing relations between America, Germany and the other European countries by cooperation in the publication of academic works, guest lectures and international congresses.

German theological books are more frequently translated than before. But many American publishers complain that many German academics are too verbose, making them unpublizable in the U.S.

In America there is an increased relationship between New Testament theology and practical disciplines such as psychology and educational theory.

Another theme was the relationship that exists in St. Paul's letters between Christ's doctrine and the relationship to the earthly Jesus.

The question of the establishment of an authentic wording of the Bible and the general development of a stable canon of Biblical scripture were also discussed.

The New Testament was once

the source for Christianity, as it is today. The Old Testament was. It took many centuries before the New Testament became established in all churches.

One seminar in Göttingen was concerned with prayer, divine service and spirituality in the New Testament, with the aid of the Letter to the Hebrews, in which Paul's doctrine of justification by faith is expounded. These are themes that are increasingly examined in churches.

This is also true for the question how did members of the congregations listen to the biblical text in the period from which the New Testament originated, and how can people today understand what is written in the Bible?

The Bible and its readers and the people who heard it, is a vital theme for many churches.

Research into the New Testament has been carried out mutually by all confessions since the Second Vatican Council and the appreciation of modern biblical research. Theological students only a generation ago had only heard of a Catholic researcher in lectures in Protestant faculties. Today, academic works from Evangelical, Anglican, and Catholic research are quoted indiscriminately alongside each other in footnotes.

They found their expression in the New Testament which eventually led a division between the two congregations.

Discoveries of Jewish and Christian writings of the period have cast new light on the spiritual world of the time. There is still dispute about the relationships between the writings of the New Testament, the Gospels, Jewish Hellenism that came to light in the Qumran scrolls, and the other currents in early Judaism.

But the nucleus of the New Testament is theology and not sociology, literature, politics or psychology.

There are a number of students who have sought to give a Marxist interpretation of the New Testament but this has found little academic approval.

Many seminars in Göttingen dealt with Biblical texts, among others with the miracles in St. Matthew's Gospel, with the parable of the sower, of the growth of seed and of the mustard seed in St. Mark's Gospel, with the visit of Nicodemus to Jesus by night in St. John's Gospel and with the Revelation of St. John.

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# Italian stars turn Mediterranean Games into their own playground

LATAKIA, Syria (Agencies) — The Mediterranean Games have quickly become an Italian playground.

Entering the third day of competition Monday, Italy has won all but two of the 14 gold medals awarded so far in the 18-nation tournament, as well as eight silver medals, twice as many as runner-up France.

Italian swimmers have won every event so far. And they're likely to strike more gold soon because additional swimming medals are due to be awarded Monday and Tuesday.

Italy was easily tops in the 1983 Games in Casablanca as well, where it took 53 gold medals, one-third of all those awarded.

Italy's dominance has been accentuated this year because of its strength in swimming and diving, which fall first on the medal calendar, and the relatively weak swimming programmes of most Arab states.

Stefano Battistelli set a meet record of 4:25.59 in the men's individual 400-metre medley Sunday, and Tanya Vannini did the same in the women's 200-metre

## Surprising Albania

For more than 40 years, Marx-

ist Albania kept its borders firmly locked. Its unknown athletes swatted safely at home in Europe's most obscure country, glorified only in Tosk-and Gheg-language newspapers.

The doors have been pried open and a monster has stalked out. In its first two matches at the Mediterranean Games, the Albanian women's volleyball team has thrashed the unsuspecting Italians and established itself as a favourite for a gold medal.

The Albanian women's basketball team kept up the newfound tradition on Monday by crushing Turkey 88-52 in a preliminary match.

The 18-nation tournament is the first major sports festival Albania has entered since World War II, and few experts expected much of a team sheltered so long from international competition.

"Everyone thought that the Albanians were ordinary and that anybody could beat them," said Mahmoud Saloum, a Syrian volleyball judge. The official then walked away.

But after watching their first

game against Italy, he said: "They were excellent in defence and had a fast attack."

He said they were "the best women's team of the games." The green-clad Albanians went on to beat a highly rated Turkish volleyball team as Albanian delegation members chanted "Albania, Al-han-ia" in the stands.

Under the leadership of wartime partisan chief Enver Hoxha, Albania steered a Communist course independent of both China and the Soviet Union and fiercely critical of the West.

Hoxha cut the country of 3 million people off from contacts with all but a few allies in the outside world.

The old leader died in 1985, and his successor, Ramiz Alia, has gradually increased foreign contacts.

But the Albanian thirst for global glory still has limits. Team officials have politely refused any comment to the Western press.

"We will talk... we will talk," said one official approached by a reporter after a volleyball victory.

The official then walked away.

# Tremplino surprises winner of Prix Niele

PARIS (R) — Tremplino, superbly ridden by Pat Eddery, beat previously unbeaten Natroun into fourth place to claim a surprise victory in the \$55,000 Prix Niele at Longchamp on Sunday.

Tremplino, avenging a defeat to Natroun in the Prix du Jockey Club at Chantilly in June, appears to be peaking at the right time with the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe three weeks away.

Video Rock, with Dominique Bouef aboard, finished second three-quarters of a length back while Alain Badel followed a neck away on Saint Andrews.

Winning trainer Andre Fabre said: "Tremplino must have a decent chance in the Arc. He had back problems earlier in the summer which contributed to his two disappointing performances then, but we have got him right now."

Alain de Royer Dupre, trainer of Natroun, a length and a half behind the winner, said: "Our colt was not suited by the slow pace and had to make his own running, but I can't deny we were still disappointed by his performance. We will delay an Arc decision until we have time to think."

Bint Pasha, also ridden by Pat Eddery, emerged as another Arc possibility when making all the running to beat fellow-British raider Threc Tails by two and a half lengths in the \$120,000 Prix Vermeille.

The filly, who started a heavily-backed favourite despite a strong French contingent, gave Eddery his 10th group success in France this season.

Eddery completed a tremendous afternoon by landing a third group race, the Prix Roy on Khalid Abdullah's ordinance.

# IOC okays bigger women's field in Seoul

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The women's singles field in next summer's Olympic tennis tournament could be enlarged by as much as 50 per cent under a plan approved Monday by an International Olympic Committee (IOC) panel.

The IOC's programme commission agreed to open up to 16 additional places in the field, provided the new spots are filled by players also entered in doubles.

The panel's recommendation goes to the IOC executive board for consideration. The board begins two days of meeting Tuesday.

The programme commission rejected adding places to the original 32-women singles field without the doubles link. That decision was part of the panel's effort to control the growth in the number of Olympic athletes, according to Matts Carlberg of Sweden, a commission member.

"We generally have to be very careful to put more (athletes) in the Olympic Games, especially with a newcomer," Carlberg said.

In Seoul, tennis will be a medal sport in the games for the first time since 1924.

"We have to make restrictions all over," Carlberg said.

The largest number of competitors at a Summer Games was 7,894 at Munich in 1972. The number declined to 5,923 at the Moscow Games in 1980, then climbed to 7,005 in Los Angeles four years later.

## Napoli faces uphill struggle against Real

LONDON (R) — For once Diego Maradona's form is unlikely to be the key factor when he takes his Napoli team to Spain on Wednesday. How the Italians' defence copes with Real Madrid's 18-goal attack will be more to the point.

"Tremble Napoli. You could be the next," was the reaction of one Spanish newspaper after Real, which meets Napoli in the first round of the European Champions' Cup, beat Real Zaragoza 7-1 on Saturday to add to seven goals the previous weekend and four in their opening league match.

Napoli began its league programme on Sunday with a (1-0) win at newly-promoted Cesena, Salvatore Bagni scoring the 16th-minute winner.

"I don't know if you would put it down to the heat or whether we had our minds already on Madrid — perhaps a bit of both," said Maradona. "We are all playing the Spanish match already — after so much discussion about it. Thankfully soon we'll be out on the pitch."

Six players scored for Real in the rout of Zaragoza, Rafael Gordillo starting things off and Jesus Solana, Emilio Butragueno, Michel Gonzalez, who scored two in a row including a penalty, Miguel Chendo and substitute Milan Jankovic gathering the others.

"What we're doing is absolutely abnormal," said Butragueno. "The way goals are going in is scandalous."

Barcelona in the doldrums

While Real Madrid's cause

continued to prosper, Barcelona showed no sign of improvement. They lost (2-0) to local rivals Espanol on Saturday and now languish sixth from the bottom of the First Division.

Argentine manager Luis Menotti at last looked to be getting results from his new array of stars at Atletico Madrid, who took third place in the league after their (3-0) win over newly-promoted Logrones.

Juventus, playing without the attacking spark of injured Ian Rush, owed their one-goal victory over Como to a penalty. Rush, already dubbed "Prince of Wales" by some football commentators, is unlikely to play in Juventus' UEFA Cup tie in Malta on Wednesday but could be fit for next week's league fixture at Empoli.

### A.C. Milan's debut

A.C. Milan, Napoli's other great rival for the Italian championship this season, made the most impressive start with (3-1) win over Pisa in which both their Dutch signings, Ruud Gullit and Marco van Basten, scored.

Gullit, who joined Milan for a record \$8.5 million from PSV Eindhoven, said the heat of Italy's late summer reaching more than 30 degrees hit him hard. "I never believed that Italy in September we would be playing in the penalty spot, his eighth goal in 10 league matches for Monaco who lead the table by four points.

European Cup Winners' Cup holders Ajax Amsterdam, bat-

ting to recapture last season's sparkling form, continued their poor start to the season, losing (2-1) to F.C. Utrecht.

Ajax have now lost three of their first seven matches and are already four points adrift of champions PSV Eindhoven, who beat newly-promoted Volendam (4-1).

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### U.S. motorcyclist wins European event

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Eddie Lawson of the United States rode his Yamaha to victory in the 500 c.c. class race in the Portuguese Motorcycling Grand Prix in the Jarama Circuit Sunday. Lawson, the reigning world champion, won the race, comprising 37 laps for total of 75.9 miles (122 kms), ahead of fellow American Randy Mamola, also on a Yamaha, and Australia's Kevin Magee, on a Yamaha.

### Bulgarian wins but falls short of record

PADUA, Italy (R) — Bulgarian world record high jumper Stefka Kostadinova scored an easy victory at an international athletics event here on Sunday but fell short in an attempt to improve on her two-week-old record. Kostadinova, who set a record of 2.09 metres at the world championships last month, tried to leap 2.10 but had to settle for victory at 2.05. Her closest competitor, Alessandra Bonfiglioli of Italy, was able to clear only 1.84 metres.

### Boesel takes sportscar crown

FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (R) — Brazil's Raul Boesel clinched the World Sportscar Drivers' Championship at rain-swept Spa-Francorchamps on Sunday. Boesel was prevented from driving until midway through the 1,000 km test — ninth round of the series — before joining race-leading British partners Johnny Dumfries and Martin Brundle. The trio went on to win the six-hour event followed home by their Jaguar teammates John Watson of Britain and Dutchman Jan Lammers. Jaguar has already sealed the world manufacturers' prize.

### Johnson wins at a stroll in London

LONDON (R) — Ben Johnson won the 100 metres at a canter but fellow world champion Billy Konchellah was beaten at an international athletics meeting at Crystal Palace on Sunday. Johnson, who smashed the world record at the Rome world championships, was an easy winner over American Mel Lattany in 10.29 seconds even though the Canadian admitted afterwards to feeling tired. Konchellah, Kenya's world 800 metres champion, was beaten by Briton Tom McKenna, who seized the opportunity to atomise his dismal, last-place showing in Rome. "Mentally, I needed to come here and run well after that happened in Rome. I don't know how many times I've run that race over in my mind since — but it's completely out of my system now," he said. McKean clocked one minute 45.18 seconds while Konchellah managed 1:45.59 with Babacar Niang of Senegal third in 1:45.83.

### Team seeks to conquer Mount Lhotse

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A Polish international team has set up its first high-altitude camp in its attempt to climb the 8,516-metre (27,932-foot) Mount Lhotse, a report received from the team Monday said. The camp was set up last Friday at 5,700 metres (18,696 feet), the message said. Led by Poland's Krzysztof Wielicki, a 37-year-old engineer from Tychy, Nalkowskies, the 16-member team has 10 Polish climbers and two each from Mexico, Britain and Italy.

### Dynamons beaten in African Soccer Cup

YAOUNDE (R) — Canon of Yaounde beat Zimbabwe's Power Dynamons 2-1 (half-time 0-0) on Sunday in a first leg quarter final tie of the African Cup of champions soccer competition.

### FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT IN SWEIFIEH

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### BRITISH LADIES OF AMMAN

MEETING - Registration and coffee. Wednesday, September 16, 10:00 a.m.

HOLIDAY INN Also

Wednesday, September 23, 4:00 p.m.

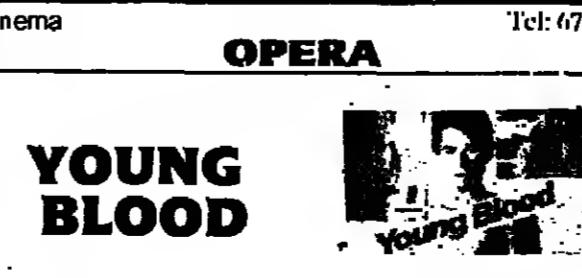
Cinema CONCORD



LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Performance: 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16

Cinema OPERA



YOUNG BLOOD

Performance: 3, 10, 15, 18, 20, 23, 26, 29

Cinema PLAZA



F/X

Performance: 3, 10, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following were the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.6375/85	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3212/17	Canadian dollar
	1.8165/75	West German marks
	2.0440/50	Dutch guilders
	1.5060/70	Swiss francs
	37.74/79	Belgian francs
	6.0620/70	French francs
	1310/1311	Italian lira
	144.35/45	Japanese yen
	6.4000/50	Swedish crowns
	6.6700/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.0075/0125	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	455.75/456.25	U.S. dollars

## LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares were back from their earlier highs in late afternoon business but remained firmly underpinned here as Wall Street extended last Friday's sharp advance with a double-figure advance at opening, dealers said.

The U.S. market's resilience to last week's news of a widening U.S. July trade deficit at a record \$16.47 billion encouraged investors here from the outset.

Dealers said a rise in the dollar Monday helped push worries of higher U.S. interest rates to the background while leading U.K. dollar earners advanced strongly. By 1401 GMT the FTSE 100 index was up 13.6 to 2,274.8 after a 2,278.6 high at 1046 GMT.

Dealers said a rise of 0.3 pct in August U.K. producer output prices was within expectations and would seem to support Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson's recent prediction of below four pct U.K. inflation by the end of the year.

The figures come at the beginning of a fairly crowded week for U.K. economic indicators, of which the most closely watched will be the August money supply and bank lending data on Friday.

"July brought a massive and unexpected £4.9 billion surge in bank lending which analysts said was partly due to increased corporate borrowing.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1987

## YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

From the Carroll Fletcher Institute

## GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Nearly everyone will be overly sensitive today, so be understanding and refrain from criticism, thus avoiding a lot of hurt feelings. The early part of the day is a good time to plan new plans and ideas.

TAURUS (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get an early start at handling your business activities, since later on you'll need time for home matters. Don't invite any outsiders in, but work on restoring harmony.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) There may be some reckless driving around you today, so be quite cautious when moving about. When handling correspondence, be sure to add a cheerful note.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be sure you don't do anything foolish, especially where finances are concerned. Remember the advice of an adviser, and think over your actions before making decisions.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't be upset if anyone purposely tries to hurt your feelings. Try to be "thick-skinned."

PIRUS (July 22 to Aug. 21) Others may be too busy to listen to your ideas today, so put them in motion yourself. Avoid social plans, and review your personal ideals before presenting them to anyone.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) A situation which you may think should have an opinion about arises, but it's really none of your business, so stay out of it. Study the basics of new projects.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Your intuition may be faulty today, so rely more on thought processes. Try not to be indecisive in any way or you'll pay dearly for it later. Think

more constructively.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't try to react on a responsibility, or you could easily get into trouble. When your credit situation worsens, it's your mate who is being too demanding, say so.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't be too forceful in some romantic affair or you could run into troubled waters. Tact is quite important now when dealing with business or money matters.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) If a partner acts too emotionally, don't get upset. Instead, be understanding and the situation will improve immeasurably. Stick to personal pursuits.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 18) This is not a good day to take any financial risks, or you could lose a bundle. If you go out with friends, economize and stick with simple but enjoyable pleasures.

pisces (Feb. 19 to Mar. 20) If you go out to a restaurant with a friend this evening, be sure to make it "Dutch treat." Work on perfecting your talents, and you can be quite good.

DR. SABROTO said that over-supply to the world oil market was caused not only by OPEC but by some non-OPEC producers.

He said OPEC members with good contacts to non-OPEC suppliers would lobby them to restrict their production and help keep prices around the \$18 OPEC benchmark.

Sandi Arabia would contact Norway and the Soviet Union, while Algeria would be in touch with the Chinese. Dr. Subroto would contact Malaysia and Brunei.

The minister said he believed oil prices would remain around \$18 until the end of 1987, so long as OPEC could restore discipline among its members.

He said he was optimistic that oil prices would stick around the OPEC benchmark.

HEY, BUG, DON'T YOU GET BORED ROLLER SKATING BY YOURSELF?

YOU NEED A PARTNER

SURE, I KNOW PEGGY FLEMING, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO ASK HER..

## THE Daily Crossword



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



## Correction

It was erroneously reported in Monday's (Sept. 14, 1987) issue of the Jordan Times that the number of contracts concluded at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) during July 1987 amounted to 17,608. The correct number is 7,608.

An official at the AFM said that the highest number of contracts this year was during March when 17,822 deals were concluded. The official noted that higher figures were posted during 1982.

## OPEC team to seek quota pledge from heads of state

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesian Energy Minister Subroto said an OPEC committee will tour all members of the group seeking commitments from each head of state to stick by agreed oil production quotas.

The main aim of the visit is to ask for a commitment from heads of state of OPEC countries to cooperate in trying to stabilise oil prices at \$18 a barrel, he told reporters on Monday after talks with President Suharto.

Dr. Subroto was briefing the president about last week's meeting of five members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Vienna to discuss overproduction by some of the 13-member grouping.

OPEC called the Vienna meeting after spot oil prices crashed by around \$3 in August after reports that the group was producing about three million barrels a day over its self-imposed ceiling of 16.6 million barrels.

The visit is also designed to ask advice about what steps should be taken to strengthen OPEC so that it can give best results to its members, he said.

Dr. Subroto, who is a member of the three-man quota compliance committee along with OPEC President Rilwanu Lukman of Nigeria and the energy minister of Venezuela, said the tour of members would begin on Oct. 5. It would start with the Gulf countries, and be followed by visits to Algeria and Libya.

Remaining OPEC countries will be toured in November, he added.

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## Peanuts



## Mutt'n Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Economist sees new agricultural challenges

WASHINGTON (AP) — Food distribution and a fair return for the farmer will emerge as chief problems in feeding the world in the 21st century, a government economist says.

They will replace the problem of producing enough crops and livestock to feed a growing world population, says Mr. Clark Edwards of the U.S. Agriculture Department's Economic Research Service.

The world population is slowing down, for one thing, Mr. Edwards said in the current issue of the department's Agriculture Outlook magazine. For another, dire assertions of British economist Thomas Robert Malthus 200 years ago that population tends to outrun the food supply have not been proved.

"Agricultural growth over the past few decades suggests, as it has ever since Malthus' gloomy predictions, that production can keep up with or even pull ahead of population growth," Mr. Edwards said.

"In fact, food production can grow more slowly in the next few decades than it did during the last few and still keep well ahead of population growth. The difficulty with the global food situation appears to be not how big a pie we can bake, but how to cut and share the pieces," he noted.

"The world's population is several times larger than it was in Malthus' day, yet per capita agricultural production has increased, he said. In the last decade, for example, world population grew 16 per cent while agricultural output increased 19 per cent.

"We are delivering what we are supposed to deliver," Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said in an interview with Reuters. "I don't see any great problems arising over our domestic policies."

In the past, Japan has often come under fierce attack, especially from the United States, for failing to pump up its economy and increase its imports.

Washington believes faster economic growth is needed in both Japan and West Germany if America is to reduce its huge trade deficit.

Mr. Miyazawa told Reuters the United States was about to get its wish, at least as far as Japan was concerned.

Japanese economic growth for the year ending next March was likely to top the government's 3½ per cent target and could come close to five per cent the following fiscal year, he said. That would be the best performance for four years.

Mr. Miyazawa, a leading contender to succeed Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone at the end of October, said Japan's huge trade surplus had begun to fall and would continue to do so for years.

In 1986/87, Japan racked up a surplus of more than \$100 billion, the biggest any nation has ever recorded.

But because Japan will be running a surplus for some time to come, it must come up with new ways to recycle the money abroad, especially in developing countries, Mr. Miyazawa said.

"We must live up to the expectation that Japan should do more for the international community," he said.

Mr. Miyazawa said Japan must give more money to needy nations and help resolve problems facing the debt-ridden Third World.

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan's finance minister forecast on Monday rapid economic growth and predicted the country would have little trouble meeting its international commitment to increase domestic demand.

## Japan's finance minister forecasts rapid growth

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan's finance minister forecast on Monday rapid economic growth and predicted the country would have little trouble meeting its international commitment to increase domestic demand.

lar would push up inflation in the United States while limiting economic growth in Japan and West Germany.

Meanwhile, Japan's imports of manufactured goods in the first half of this year soared to a record \$29.5 billion, up 19.4 per cent over the same period last year, the Japan External Trade Organisation said.

It said in a semiannual report that Japan's total imports for the six-month period increased to \$68.3 billion, up six per cent over the same period last year.

The semigovernmental agency said the share of manufactured goods among the country's total imports in the January-June period this year was a record 43.2 per cent, up from the previous record of 41.8 per cent set in the like period last year.

It attributed the increase in the imports of manufactured products to the yen's sharp, prolonged appreciation, advancement in the division of labour between Japan and its trading partners, especially Asian countries, improvement in the quality of foreign products.

The Japanese currency has firmed to the present 142-yen level from 242 yen to the dollar in September 1985. The stronger yen has made Japanese goods more expensive abroad and resulted in lower exports, profits, production, investment and employment in Japan.

Japan's exports in the first six months this year totalled \$108.40 billion, up 9.9 per cent from the same period last year, according to the finance ministry.

Economists said a weaker dol-

## L. America struggles for recovery

WASHINGTON (AP) — Latin America is slowly coming out of the deep economic slump of the early 1980s but income in some countries — notably Mexico — dropped sharply last year, the Inter-American Development Bank said.

"Only three countries — Brazil, Colombia, Panama — bad a higher (average income) in 1986 than in 1980, while 13 had a loss of at least 10 per cent," the bank said in its annual report.

During 1986, average income for people in the region rose by 1.4 per cent to \$2,140 a year, about the same rate of increase as the previous two years. The lowest annual income of \$342 — less than \$1 a day — was in Haiti. In 1986/87, Japan racked up a surplus of more than \$100 billion, the biggest any nation has ever recorded.

The report showed that in Mexico, where the government of President Miguel De La Madrid has accumulated a record \$14.6 billion in reserves, average income dropped last year by 6.4 per cent, consumption by 4.6 per cent and investment by 11.7 per cent.

The average Mexican earned \$2,407 last year, down from \$2,734 in 1980.

Activity in the Mexican building industry dropped 12 per cent last year. Consumer prices rose 10.6 per cent and foreign debt was close to \$100 billion. At the end of 1986, U.S. dollar was worth 900 Mexican pesos. The price now is over 1,500 pesos.

Other countries did better than Mexico, which has been hit hard by the drop in world oil prices. In Argentina, average income was up more than four per cent after a

drop of six per cent in 1985. Investment in Argentina rose by 18.5 per cent after six years of decline.

Brazil, which accounts for a large part of South America's economy, increased its production by the unusually high rate of 8.2 per cent for the third year in a row. But Brazil also was troubled by a resurgence of inflation.

And it has a serious problem in relations with foreign banks since shaking the international financial world in February by suspending all interest payments to them. The Third World's biggest debtor

# Tamil Tigers reportedly kill 66 in east Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's powerful Tamil Tigers separatist group massacred at least 66 people in a weekend onslaught against rival militants in a key eastern region, residents said on Monday.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who oppose Sri Lanka's July 29 peace accord, ambushed vehicles of rival Tamil groups on Sunday and swooped on villages to wreck their offices and shoot down occupants in the eastern district of Batticaloa, police and residents said.

A well-known resident who asked not to be identified told Reuters by telephone there were 66 confirmed deaths. Most of the killings occurred in Batticaloa district but some took place further south in Amparai district, he said.

The Tigers also burned down the houses of four people in Batticaloa who supported their opponents.

"People are in a state of shock. They are miserable at what is happening," a well-known Tamil moderate and resident of Batticaloa who asked not to be identified told Reuters.

The Tigers oppose a peace process begun under a July 29 Delhi-Colombo accord, supported by other Tamil militant groups which previously battled

for autonomy.

Under the accord the people of Batticaloa would have the right to reject the unity with the northern Jaffna region which the Tigers control.

Batticaloa City residents said Tigers gunmen set up roadblocks on Sunday before they launched the offensive against rival groups who had set up offices in villages.

"It is still going on in the villages all over the district," a resident said.

"The Tigers are sending armed supporters and pulling people out of offices set up by other groups and they have taken away maybe 30 or 40 people today," he added.

Joseph Kingsley Swamipillai, Batticaloa's Roman Catholic bishop, told Reuters by telephone the confrontation had been building up for several days between the Tigers and three rival Tamil groups known as the Three Stars.

Both the Tigers and the Three Stars had been setting up offices in villages across Batticaloa. "This was a challenge and the

Tigers have never accepted any competition," he added.

The bishop said nearly 60 members of the three groups, the Tamil People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPLF), the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE) and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), had surrendered to police for protection from the Tigers on Sunday.

Police confirmed that surrenders had taken place.

Since the peace pact ended four years of fighting between the Tamil separatists and government forces, the Tigers have clashed with rival groups in several parts of north and eastern Sri Lanka — the area the separatists claim as a Tamil homeland.

Residents said none of the killings took place in Batticaloa City which is 70 per cent Tamil, 25 per cent Muslim and five per cent Sinhalese.

A referendum on whether the east will agree to unite with the north in a Tamil-dominated semi-autonomous administration is scheduled by the end of next year.

"It is a very sad thing," Bishop Swamipillai said of the inter-Tamil "massacres." "There has been no fighting. All the dead were ambushed and eliminated."

## 24 more Indians die in new floods

NEW DELHI (R) — Swollen rivers in northern India engulfed fresh areas on Sunday, causing 24 more deaths and disrupting relief supplies, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

In Bihar state, 20 people were swept away, bringing the known death toll in this season's floods to 548, and four died in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh. Train services were cut between Delhi and

Calcutta and road bridges broken in several places.

In Bihar, some 21 million people have been affected by the floods. In one district alone, 800,000 people are marooned and many are being supplied by air force helicopter, PTI said.

In Assam and Uttar Pradesh, All India Radio said water levels were receding. But the Ganges and its tributaries were reported

to be still rising in Bihar, threatening further areas.

While the floods have struck in north and north-east India, many parts of the country are suffering their worst drought this century.

On Friday the government announced cuts of \$500 million

official spending to enable it to increase relief aid following the widespread failure of the monsoon.

## Chirac hails Caledonia vote

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Jacques Chirac hailed the referendum in New Caledonia as a triumph for Paris and proposed greater regional autonomy for the Pacific island which voted massively to remain part of France.

But opposition Socialists said the poll had changed nothing in New Caledonia, which has seen violent clashes between separatist Kanaks and white settlers.

Two voters in five stayed away from the polls following a boycott call from the separatist Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKs).

Mr. Chirac, speaking in Paris on return from a tour of French possessions in the Caribbean, hailed the 58.99 per cent turnout as a "triumphant participation."

"My government will do all it can so that Caledonians can build together a fraternal society based on tolerance, dialogue, mutual respect for dignity, peace and security," Mr. Chirac said.

He indicated he would seek to channel the separatist aspirations of the Kanak (ethnic Melanesian) community by offering more

autonomy to the island.

"My government will propose an autonomy statute within the framework of a broad regionalisation which can be accepted by all Caledonians and provide the stable institutions so badly needed by the territory," he said.

The previous Socialist government set up a regional system of government — with the FLNKS controlling three of four regions — but Mr. Chirac has concentrated more power in Noumea.

Overseas Territories Minister Bernard Pons, who organised the referendum, declined to predict when the new autonomy statute might be presented to parliament.

He said he would go to New Caledonia in the next few days and Mr. Chirac might accompany him.

Mr. Chirac's office later said he would arrive in New Caledonia on Thursday for a 24-hour visit.

For the Socialists, Louis Mermaz, former speaker of the National Assembly, said the referendum had solved none of the territory's problems.

## Weather aids U.S. firefighters' efforts

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Lower temperatures and higher humidity aided fire crews as they fought to put fires around forest and brush fires still burning in the western United States.

More than 1,100 square miles (2,860 square kilometres) in western states have gone up in smoke since the end of August.

Firefighters in the state of Oregon got help from helicopters dropping water in 1,000-gallon (3,800-litre) guips.

Progress against the flames was demonstrated by the number of firefighters still working in northern California. U.S. Forest Service spokesman Ray Schaaf said the number was down to about 9,500 from the 13,720 at the peak of the more than 1,200 lightning fires that began breaking out on Aug. 28.

Elsewhere, crews battled a fire in southern California and one in the Catalina Mountains outside Tucson, Arizona.

Humid, foggy weather eased the battle slightly in Oregon, where firefighters had firebreaks around 25 per cent of the silver complex of fires. Those blazes had charred 29,400 acres (11,900 hectares) about 40 kilometres north of Grants Pass, Forest Service spokesman Chuck Town said.

They have sought to show compassion in the face of complex human, social and political realities," the Pope, garbed in green robes symbolic of hope and growth, told the crowd at a site in the city of San Antonio, 225 kilometres from the Mexican border.

"Here human needs, both spiritual and material, continue to call out to the church with thousands of voices, and the whole church must respond" in

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARF  
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### ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦AQJ6 ♦AQJ3 ♦AQJ83

partner opens the bidding with four hearts. What action do you take?

A.—Depending on the quality of partner's hearts, slam could be laydown, depend on a side-cut fitness or have no play at all. The only way you can find out is to raise to five hearts. That asks partner to consider the quality of his suit. For slam purposes, The fact that you did not cue-bid or ask for aces guarantees that you have all the side suits under control.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦AKQ72 ♦AKS83 ♦A ♦A83

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Someone is taking advantage of the vulnerability to try something — there is no way that one of the opponents can have an opening bid and the other a jump shift. To alert your partner to what's going on, start with a cue-bid of three diamonds.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦AQ6 ♦AQJ83 ♦AQK2 ♦A83

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Don't give up on slam just because partner has denied a heart fit! If he has a four-card diamond suit, your combined assets should still stretch to slam. Find out by bidding four diamonds. If he can do no better than four no trump, make another move by raising.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦AQ ♦VK4 ♦AKJ83 ♦A872

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

What action do you take?

A.—Think about the auction. Partner did not move over your no trump opening, so how much can he have? You can expect a smattering of points and a five-card suit (with a six-card suit he would have bid), so even with your fine hand and excellent support you are unlikely to have any play for game.

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass

What action do you take?

A.—We hate to accept a low-level penalty double when we have a six-card major suit and a void in the opponent's suit — to achieve maximum results, you usually have to lead trumps through declarer, and you are going to find that difficult. However, partners don't make low-level doubles with a fit in your suit and you have enough strength to compensate for your lack of hearts. Besides, you will still be a 2-to-1 favorite to win the rubber. Pass.

They're dealing with more rugged country than they have in the last few weeks," Schaaf said.

In Shasta-Trinity, the North Fork complex of four fires had charred 6,500 acres (2,600 hectares) in rugged terrain in the middle of the forest's wilderness area, Schaaf said.

Information was being sought Sunday night on the detention and whereabouts of David Miller, a U.S. embassy economic adviser who had gone to watch the demonstration, embassy spokeswoman Cynthia Farrell said.

Miller had gone to the site in a car clearly marked "U.S. diplomatic mission," the embassy sources said.

Panama is in its fourth straight month of protests against the

military-backed government of President Eric Arturo Delvalle and Panama's military strongman, Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Sunday's rally marked the second anniversary of the decapitation death of Dr. Hugo Spadafora, an opposition leader whose family blames the military for the killing.

Members of National Civic Crusade, an opposition coalition of 192 business, political, labour and student groups, estimated 5,000 people joined the protest. Witnesses said there were far fewer.

Carlos Ernesto Gonzales, a coalition director, said the attackers first threw rocks and bottles, then opened fire on the crowd.

Several of the attacks were identified: white T-shirts and red caps, witnesses said.

Mr. Gonzales identified the dead protestor as 49-year-old Carlos Efraim Guzman and said he was shot in the head. Mr. Gonzales and other witnesses said five other demonstrators were hospitalized with bullet wounds, including two shot in the leg. Hospitals refused to release any information.

The area is one of concern. They show no containment or that at all," he said.

Four other major fires in the Shasta-Trinity were between 40 per cent and 85 per cent contained Sunday, he said.

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